galore in the Board and Board being virtually hijacked by such corrupt employees. In fact, strict vigilance is being kept on the corrupt employees of the Board and stringent action is taken by imposing major and minor penalties on them after due inquiry. Already twelve (12) employees of the Board have been dismissed, six (6) others have been suspended and inquiries/action is in progress/contemplated against another twenty-six (26) employees for indulging in corruption and malpractices.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Only two cases of non-observance of discipline and Conduct Rules by an employee of the Board have come to the notice of this Ministry where in one case, the employee had gone to the Press and in the other case, the same employee had submitted a representation about his grievances direct to Minister's office without routing it through propoer channel. In both the cases the Ministry has taken action to call for the explanation of the said employee through the Administrator of the Board.

Drug abuse in the Country

4374. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of the drug abuse problem in the country; and

(b) the number of de-addiction centres opened in the North East, State-wise, to control addiction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Different studies and reports indicate that there is rising incidence of drug abuse amongst certain vulnerable sections of the society.

(b) The State-wise number of De-addiction-cum-Rehabilitation Centres being run by NGOs in the North East is as under: Assam-1, Manipur-10, Mizoram-4, Nagaland-2. In addition, the State-wise number of Medical Colleges and District Level Hospitals assisted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for running Drug Deaddiction Centres is as under: Assam-6, Manipur-8, Meghalaya-1, Mozoram-3, Nagaland-6, Tripura-1.

Census for Physically Handicapped Persons

4375. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA-SWAMY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a separate census for physically handicapped people has been done in the country;

(b) if so, the details of these figures, State-wise;

(c) whether any special programmes have been outlined for Andhra Pradesh to tackle the problem of rehabilitation of such people; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) No separate Census for physically handicapped people has been done in the country. However, as per the latest Sample Survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation in 1991, about 16.15 million persons in the country are suffering from visual, hearing, speech and locomotor disabilities.

(c) and (d) Information has been called for from the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Funds for Tribal Schemes in Assam

4376. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds given by Government to the tribals schemes of Assam, area-wise from 1995-1998;

(b) the details of the districts where the tribals are not covered under the scheme in Assam; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) The scheme-wise details of Central Assistance provided to the State Government and the Non-Governmental Organisations functioning in the State of Assam